

Utah Veterans' Advisory Council
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
April 17, 2013

Place: Room 150-D, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City

Time: 2:00 PM

Members Present: Les Baxley, Bill Dunlap, Brian Garrett, Frank Maughan, Dave Phillips, Terry Schow, Gary Schwartz, Jon Skelly

Excused: Bill Christoffersen, James Theriault

Secretary: Alan Ferner

Guests: James Cunningham, Randy Edwards, Gary Harter, Penny Larsen, Dennis McFall, Jacque Peterson, Steve Young

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Dave Phillips. Dave introduced and welcomed those in attendance.
2. The minutes of our 20 March meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. Dennis McFall reported on the Veterans Nursing Homes under construction. Dedication is scheduled for 23 May at Ivins and 6 June at Payson. Both events will begin at 1:00 PM. Admissions will commence about 3 weeks after dedication.
4. Subcommittee on the State Veterans Cemetery – Dennis McFall reported to the Council on the grant projects at the State Veterans Cemetery. The projects are 100% complete and a rededication is scheduled for 10:00 am on Memorial Day.
5. Legislative Subcommittee: Frank Maughan requested that the American Legion, DAV and VFW initiate the process within their organizations, to provide this Council with their legislative proposals for the next legislative session.
6. Gary Harter summarized his findings from recent conversations and meetings, on programs that affect Veterans, especially as related to employment, education, and outreach. Gary mentioned a possible model that could be used for the flow of Veterans services as follows: Respect, Awareness, Access, Personal Touch, and Responsiveness. Terry Schow reminded us of the difficulty on obtaining good data from DWS that relate to Veteran hiring. Gary Schwartz made a motion to draft a letter to Terry Schow requesting that he seek the support of DWS for the purpose of tracking each Veteran that gains employment. Dave Phillips seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Frank Maughan agreed to prepare the letter.
7. James Cunningham (a Veteran now attending the U of U) described the value of Student Veterans Centers. Terry Schow noted that Utah Valley University does not have a Veterans Center. Brian Garrett made a motion that we prepare a letter to the president of Utah Valley

University, requesting the establishment of a Student Veterans Center. Gary Schwartz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Jon Skelly stated that VA claims processing is up about 54% from last quarter. He also pointed out that GI Bill payment processing is speeding up.
9. Steve Young announced that the new parking garage is now open. The Valor House is also open. Regarding the phase-in of direct deposit for travel expense reimbursement, Steve advised that the process takes 3 to 5 days for repeat customers.
10. Following considerable discussion on the 1 July changes to the Council and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Brian Garrett made a motion that the Council advise the Governor of our support for Gary Harter filling the position as Executive Director of the Department of Veteran and Military Affairs, upon it's activation on July 1st. Also requesting that the Governor tell us how he wishes us to proceed, if that is not the direction he wishes to go. Bill Dunlap seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Frank Maughan will follow up with the above message to the Governor.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM by Frank Maughan. Our next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, May 15th, at 4:00 PM in the 4th floor Director's Conference Room, at the VA Regional Office, 570 Foothill Blvd, Salt Lake City.